

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 /104 W

-----033637 100404Z/13

R 091545Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7056
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, IT

SUBJECT: MISSING BOX, POSSIBLY OF URANIUM OXIDE, CAUSES PRESS
FLURRY

1. SUMMARY. A 1.76 KG BOX LABELLED URANIUM OXIDE WAS
DISCOVERED LAST WEEK ABOARD A NORWEGIAN VESSEL IN THE PERSIAN
GULF. BOX WAS UNDOCUMENTED, EXCPET FOR LABEL WHICH SHOWED
IT WAS SHIPPED LAST YEAR FROM AN AMERICAN FIRM TO ITS GERMAN
SUBSIDIARY. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, NOTIFIED BY NORWEGIAN
COUNTERPART, UNLOADED BOX IN PORT OF ANCONA (SHIP'S NEXT
PORT OF CALL) BUT HAVE NOT YET OPENED IT. INTIAL SCAN
DID NOT SHOW RADIOACTIVITY. PRESS STORIES HERE HAVE CLAIMED
THE BOX IS ENRICHED URANIUM AND THAT ITS DISCOVERY HAS CAUSED
CONCERN AMONG NATO SECRET SERVICES. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEN)
DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, DR. ALBONETTI, TOLD
EMBOFF SEPT. 7 OF STRANGE DISCOVERY OF A 1.76KG. BOX
MARKED URNAIUM OXIDE ABOARD THE NORWEGIAN SHIP "BOW
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OAK" IN THE PERSIAN GULF DURING A ROUTINE SHIP
INVENTORY. LABEL SHOWED THAT THE BOX WAS SHIPPED
LAST AUGUST FROM THE VENTRON CORPOTATION OF BEVERLY,
MASS. TO ITS GERMAN SUBSIDIARY IN KARLSRUHE. FOUR BOXES
OF URANIUM OXIDE WERE SHIPPED AT THAT TIME; ONLY
THREE ARRIVED.

3. NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY AUTHORITIES, INFORMED OF THE DISCOVERY, CONTACTED GERMAN COUNTERPARTS, AND AS THE SHIP'S NEXT PORT OF CALL WAS ANCONA, ASKED CNEN TO UNLOAD AND EXAMINE THE BOX. WHILE BOX HAS NOT YET BEEN OPENED, ALBONETTI SAID PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATED CONTENTS WERE NOT RADIOACTIVE.

4. ALBONETTI HOPED TO KEEP THE DISCOVERY QUIET UNTIL BOX'S CONTENTS HAD BEEN ANALYZED. HE HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL AS SEVERAL ITALIAN PAPERS ON SEPT. 8 AND 9 HAVE REPORTED THE STORY. THE ARTICLES ARE MORE OR LESS FACTUAL EXCEPT THEY HAVE CLAIMED THE CONTENTS ARE ENRICHED URANIUM AND SPECULATED THAT VARIOUS NATO "SECRET SERVICES" ARE IN A DITHER OVER THE DISCOVERY.

5. CNEN HAS KEPT IN CONTACT WITH EMBASSY AND EXPECTS TO HAVE COMPLETED ITS ANALYSIS BY TOMORROW.

6. COMMENT: WHEN WE KNOW WHAT CONTENTS ARE, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR WASHINGTON TO CONTACT THE VENTRON COPR.
(CONGRESS STREET, BEVERLY, MASS., TEL: 617-922.1875)
AND ASK FOR THEIR VERSION OF WHY THE BOX NEVER ARRIVED IN GERMANY.
GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, PRESS COMMENTS, MARINE CARGO, INVESTIGATIONS, TRANSACTION CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME14675
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770328-0300
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770980/aaaacpv.d tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 35419849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1330876
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISSING BOX, POSSIBLY OF URANIUM OXIDE, CAUSES PRESS FLURRY
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, ESTC, IT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/35419849-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009